

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A carotenoid composition comprising lycopene suspended or dispersed in a medium-chain triglyceride, ~~wherein the medium-chain triglyceride is~~ derived from esterification of a substantially pure medium chain fatty acid and substantially pure glycerol which maintains the concentration of lycopene for at least three months at 25°C.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the fatty acid is a C6 to C12 fatty acid.
4. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the fatty acid is a C8 to C10 fatty acid.
5. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, and mixtures thereof.
6. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1, comprising up to 10% by weight lycopene.
7. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 6, comprising between 4%

and 5% by weight lycopene.

8. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 6, comprising up to 98% by weight medium chain triglyceride.

9. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 8, comprising between 20% and 80% by weight medium chain triglyceride.

10. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, comprising between 30% and 70% by weight medium chain triglyceride.

11. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 8, further comprising an oil-soluble antioxidant.

12. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the oil-soluble anti-oxidant is selected from the group consisting of tocopherols, butylated hydroxy anisole, butylated hydroxytoluene, propyl gallate, ethoxyquin and ascorbyl palmitate, natural tocopherols, and mixtures thereof.

13. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 12, wherein the tocopherol is selected from the group consisting of beta, gamma-, and delta-tocopherols and mixtures thereof.

14. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the anti-oxidant comprises up to 15% of the composition.

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15. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein the anti-oxidant comprises between 5% and 10% by weight of the formulation.

16. (Currently amended) A method of providing a bioavailable antioxidant comprising orally administering to a host an effective amount of lycopene suspended or dispersed in a medium chain triglyceride, wherein the medium chain triglyceride is derived from esterification of a substantially pure medium chain fatty acid and substantially pure glycerol which maintains the concentration of lycopene for at least three months at 25°C.